

From: [Kristen Keteles](#)
To: [jacki](#)
Subject: Re: Germanium concern
Date: 11/29/2010 07:46 AM

Jacki,

Thank you for the follow up information. I was out for the holiday, but will follow up with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) and discuss with ATSDR regional environmental health physician. Unless you sign a HIPPA waiver your physician will not be able to release any info or discuss your medical records and history.

I will be in touch as soon as I hear back from ATSDR.

Kristen Keteles, Ph.D.
Toxicologist
US EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St. 8P-P3T
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6039
email: Keteles.Kristen@epa.gov

▼ "jacki" ---11/24/2010 09:41:33 PM---We have had water tested 3 times, the last time ND State Water, Kris Roberts came out and did water

From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
To: Kristen Keteles/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 11/24/2010 09:41 PM
Subject: Re: Germanium concern

We have had water tested 3 times, the last time ND State Water, Kris Roberts came out and did water samples and we just got results last week, appear to be okay according to them. I am waiting for results, I sent water to an environmental water lab in Texas. 2 tests showed no arsenic, the state test showed a small amount, nothing over limit. My husband and I both did hair tests show high arsenic, manganese, germanium. Dr has done one round of blood and urine on me, arsenic urine level was 132.4, mercury is 4, lead is 3, both below normal. My husband and I both did 2nd round of blood and 24 hr urine, germanium came back mine 48 and my husband 39. We are still waiting for arsenic results. Don't know of any chemicals they looked for, My Dr is Dr Kroll at Craven Hagen Clinic in Williston, he had called the Control Center in Atlanta for advice on this. I will give him your contact info, I tried to call him today, and didn't get to talk to him, we had to leave. My phone number is 701-826-9069. There are other people in the area

with health
problems like mine, but i'm not sure if anyone has had blood
tests, I have
suggested to do so. Breathing, sinus and nasal problems seem to
be at the
top of the list. My husband and I both live on abuterol now, he
actually got
sick before I did, we thought it was just his asthma. I am on
the ranch
full time, and my husband works for a service co in Williston.
Thank-you,
Jacki

----- Original Message -----

From: <Keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov>
To: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 11:43 AM
Subject: Re: Germanium concern

> Very sorry to hear about your severe health problems. Please
continue
> to work with your physician and be sure to seek care for your
symptoms.
> I alerted the Agency on Toxic Substances and Disease Registry
(ATSDR)
> regarding your case and am inquiring with our Regional ATSDR
> Environmental Health Physician. I have a few questions for
you. Have
> you received any results of the water tests and also what are
yours and
> your husband's blood arsenic levels? Have you had any hair or
finger
> nail analyses done? I would also like to know what chemicals
they looked
> for in your blood. For example did they also test for mercury?
What are
> your (both you and your husband's) occupations? Finally, do
any of your
> neighbors have similar health problems and have any of them
had their
> blood tested?
>
>
> Kristen Keteles, Ph.D.
> Toxicologist
> US EPA Region 8
> 1595 Wynkoop St. 8P-P3T
> Denver, CO 80202
> (303) 312-6039
> email: Keteles.Kristen@epa.gov
>
>
>
> From: "jacki" <jboid@dia.net>
> To: Kristen Keteles/R8/USEPA/US@EPA
> Date: 11/24/2010 09:29 AM
> Subject: Re: Germanium concern
>
>
>
> Yes these can be confirmed in myself and my husband and also
very high
> arsenic levels, this was reported to state health dept in ND.
We have
> done
> extensive water testing, and also state water dept has done
testing. We
> have
> ruled out food or supplements, as none are taken. Health
problems are
> getting
> critical, I have been taken to ER once because I could not
breath. I
> have
> lost muscle control and have problems walking and with hands.

> ----- Original Message -----
> From: <Keteles.Kristen@epamail.epa.gov>
> To: <jboid@dia.net>
> Cc: <Rickard.Joshua@epamail.epa.gov>; <jsemerad@nd.gov>;
> <Barron.Barbara@epamail.epa.gov>
> Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2010 9:50 AM
> Subject: Germanium concern
>
>
>>
>> Dear Ms. Schilke,
>>
>> I received your inquiry concerning elevated germanium blood
levels.
>> Your email reported a blood level of 52mcg/ml, Typically
metal blood
>> levels are reported in micrograms per deciliter. Can you
confirm the
>> concentration from your lab results?
>>
>> Germanium is not considered toxic (of course anything in high
enough
>> amounts can be toxic). In fact, at one time germanium was
used in
>> supplements because it was believed to prevent cancer.
However, as I
>> mentioned anything in a high enough amount can be toxic and
people
> that
>> had taken the supplements often experienced adverse health
effects
> such
>> as heart problems. and kidney damage. People that
experienced
> symptoms
>> of germanium toxicity were either exposed to high levels by
taking
>> supplements or through occupational exposure. Germanium
occurs
>> naturally in bedrock and can be present in well water and is
also
>> present in very low amounts in food, particularly brans,
legumes, and
>> tomatoes. Most people are exposed to very small amounts in
food. If
>> you are on private well water, I would recommend having your
water
>> tested to determine if the source is through the well water.
>>
>> With your elevated germanium blood levels, I am curious if
you are
>> experiencing any symptoms such as fatigue, weight loss,
muscle
> weakness?
>> Also has your physician checked your kidney function? I
would be
> happy
>> to talk to you further about this issue or any concerns about
> exposures.
>>
>> Best,
>>
>> Kristen Keteles, Ph.D.
>> Toxicologist
>> US EPA Region 8
>> 1595 Wynkoop St. 8P-P3T
>> Denver, CO 80202
>> (303) 312-6039
>> email: Keteles.Kristen@epa.gov
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